Indo-US Agreement

2401. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US have singed an agreement last year-end;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where special emphasis has been laid;

(d) whether the agreement has made any impact on Indo-US relations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Agreement between the Governments of India and the United States regarding the surrender of persons to international tribunals was signed on 26 December 2002 in Delhi. The two Governments have agreed not to surrender or transfer each other's citizens to an international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties, and without the express content of the other Government.

(d) and (e) The bilateral agreement reflects shared perceptions between the two countries regarding the primacy of national judicial processes and institutions over multilateral judicial processes and institutions, and is a step in the common efforts of the two sides to strengthen bilateral relations.

Indo-Us Relations

2402. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary's visit to US in the month of February 2003 has been considered to be a successful one;